

I'M STANDING IN HONOR OF AN
AMERICAN HERO, SGT JOSHUA
WETZEL, 2ND INFANTRY EARTH
PIGS, THE UNITED STATES
ARMY

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of one of Alabama's most heroic sons, Joshua Wetzel of The United States Army. While out on patrol on May 31, 2012 Joshua was almost killed in an IED explosion in Kandahar Afghanistan. While he lost his legs and suffered numerous other injuries, he never lost his faith. As he said to me the first time I met him in a hospital bed at Walter Reed, I'm still standing! And that pretty much sums up this man's will to live and can do spirit. He makes all of America proud and his town of Glencoe. With the help of his family and wonderful wife Paige, he has already made such great strides in such a short time and it's going to be hard to catch up to him. I ask that this poem penned in his honor by Albert Caswell be placed in the RECORD.

I'M STILL STANDING

I'm . . .
I'm still standing . . .
Here on this very day . . .
You may take my two strong legs,
but my heart you can not so sway!
I'm still standing!
Look at me out on my way!
For I've got mountains to so climb,
and so many hearts to so inspire,
and such hope to so convey all in my time
along the way!
Yea, I'm still standing,
as I fight this new fight each and every day!
All at speed,
as my heart so gives me all that I so need
. . .
so you better get out of my way!
You see,
War Eagles do not so hesitate!
For I am Army Strong,
as my heart beats loud and long . . .
to fight for freedom night and day!
2nd Infantry, EARTH PIGS who fight and
lead!
And The University of Auburn,
is all part of my very DNA!
Because, sweet Alabama was where I was
born and raised!
And all of my children are going to graduate
from there one day!
For I am a grunt!
Ever on the hunt!
To evil to so confront!
As I was on that fateful day!
As when my short life almost went away!
Without legs, and halfway to death as there
I lay!
As I had a choice,
as when inside of me I so heard a voice,
telling me to stay!
And I got up and run for the first time in my
life without legs!
With the tears running down my eyes,
I began to pray!
As along side of me my Lord God ran with
me that day!
Helping me chase all of that heartache and
doubt away!
As now I must rebuild!
As so inside of me my hearts instills!
The courage and the strength to so will!
Because, I'm Standing Still!
Heartache and pity get out of my way!

Don't cry for me,
but for all of my Brothers in Arms who now
lie in such soft quiet graves!
And I'm going back home to sweet Alabama,
running one day!
And to this our world,
my life still has so much more to say!
And I've got a wonderful wife,
who is the light of my life who has shown me
that true love really stays!
And this War Eagle,
stands so regal with his courage he displays!
As I'm still standing even taller on this day!

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER LAWRENCE BANKS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Lawrence Banks, who will retire after nearly 26 years of law enforcement service with the City of Fairfield.

Officer Banks began his law enforcement service with the City of Pittsburg as a volunteer Reserve Officer in 1985 and, after putting himself through police academy, he was hired as a Police Officer with the Fairfield Police Department on March 16, 1987. He has served the community in various capacities that included Patrol and Youth Services.

Officer Banks received numerous commendations from citizens and coworkers, and he was named Police Officer of the Year for 1993 for his consistent and exemplary performance within our local schools. Some of his most significant contributions to the Police Department have been the special assignments he has held including School Resource Officer, Drug Abuse Resistance Education, DARE, Instructor, and on the Police-Probation Team. Officer Banks was invaluable in these roles because he is skilled at developing better relationships with not only juveniles he came in contact with, but with parents and school administrators. He has taken community service to a new level through his dedicated teaching, collaboration, and positive representation of the City of Fairfield and the Fairfield Police Department.

Officer Banks has been a valued employee and his commitment to the community was evidenced on a daily basis. He is a loyal representative of the law enforcement community and admired for his hard work, dedication, and positive work ethic.

Officer Banks will be presented with his retirement memorabilia in early January. All are invited to celebrate his distinguished career.

A TRIBUTE TO KARA KNACK

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Kara Knack, who will be retiring from the Friends of the Observatory, FOTO, Board this month after thirty-four years of dedicated service.

Kara Knack's enthusiasm for the Griffith Observatory began long before she joined FOTO.

She first visited the Observatory on a vacation in the 1950's, at which point she was so enthralled that when she moved to Southern California in the early 1960's, she quickly became a regular visitor to the Observatory. Her ardent interest in astronomy came to the attention of Griffith Observatory Director Dr. Ed Krupp, who encouraged her to become a more active member of FOTO by joining the Board of Directors. Upon joining the Board in 1978, Kara began writing and editing FOTO's Update newsletter, which she continued to do for the next 10 years. Since 1985 she has penned the FOTO Notes section in the Griffith Observer, the Observatory's magazine.

Ms. Knack's passion for astronomy and dedication to the Observatory culminated in 2008, when over 2,200 of her celestially themed items were used for the Cosmic Connection timeline, now on display in the Griffith Observatory. For over two decades, Kara has collected celestial objects and jewelry and when the Observatory underwent renovation in 2006, she saw an opportunity to share her collection with the institution she devoted so much of her time to, and with the support of the Observatory staff, the Cosmic Connection was created.

As a member of FOTO's board, Kara has served as the secretary for four terms, as vice president two terms, and as president for three terms. In addition she has also served on the Master Plan Committee, the Architectural Committee, the Selection Committee, the Renovation and Expansion Steering Committee, the Exhibit Planning Committee, the Planetarium Planning Committee, the Reopening Committee and the Volunteer Neighborhood Oversight Committee.

For decades, Kara has demonstrated unparalleled enthusiasm not just for the Observatory, but for public education about astronomy. She has donated her time, her possessions, and her heart to the pursuit of astronomy, and her extraordinary generosity shall continue to be felt at the Griffith Observatory for years to come.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring Kara Knack for her exemplary service to the Griffith Observatory.

8TH ANNUAL "SPIRIT OF INNOVATION" INDUCTION CEREMONY

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKEY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sincerity and admiration that I offer congratulations to Ivy Tech Community College Northwest and its regional partners, who recently celebrated their 8th Annual "Spirit of Innovation" Induction Ceremony. At the ceremony, thirty individuals and teams were inducted as members of the 2012-2013 class of the Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana. Of these individuals, certain members were inducted as Society Fellows for their exceptional efforts in innovation, including Eugene S. Smotkin, Ph.D., Pearl Prince, Olga Petryszyn, Gus Olympidis, and Neal H. Haskell, Ph.D. Additionally, Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr. was honored at the event with the Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service, a special recognition named for

the president of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana. Also honored were the Chanute Prize team recipients, the Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation of Purdue University Calumet and "S-in motion," ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center, East Chicago. For their truly remarkable contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and their continuous efforts to cultivate a culture of innovation, these honorees were inducted during a prestigious event that took place at the Horseshoe Casino in Hammond, Indiana, on October 18, 2012.

The Society of Innovators of Northwest Indiana was created by Chancellor J. Guadalupe Valtierra of Ivy Tech Northwest with the goal of highlighting and encouraging innovative individuals and groups within the not-for-profit, public, and private sectors, as well as building a "culture of innovation" in Northwest Indiana. The importance of innovation in Northwest Indiana, as well as globally, is crucial in today's ever-changing economy.

These five Fellows selected by the Society of Innovators were chosen for their extraordinary innovative leadership and the impact of their accomplishments throughout the community of Northwest Indiana and the world. Eugene S. Smotkin, Ph.D. is a professor of Chemistry at Northwestern University and the Chief Executive Officer of NuVant Systems, Incorporated in Crown Point. NuVant develops and distributes electrochemical equipment and materials for the research and development, manufacturing, and educational markets. Pearl Prince is the principal of Frankie Woods McCullough Girls Academy in Gary, the city's first public all girls school for kindergarten through seventh grade students. Pearl developed and implemented an educational model that has led the academy to become an award winning elementary school for students from low income areas. Olga Petryszyn was named one of the top hosta plant hybridizers in the United States. Since 1993, she has registered twenty-four hosta plants with twenty-two varieties commercialized. In 2012, the world famous "Niagara Falls" variety was honored by the American Hosta Society. Gus Olympidis, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Family Express, developed a nationally recognized business model that measures up to global competitors. The business model includes the "Living Brand" for customer service, innovative logistics, and state-of-the-art technology linking the 57 stores to their headquarters in Valparaiso. Neal Haskell, Ph.D., Saint Joseph College, Rensselaer, is one of the foremost scientists of forensic entomology in the world. Using his expertise of the life cycles of insects to determine time and location of death in criminal cases, Dr. Haskell is a pioneer and truly an innovative leader. He has assisted the FBI, Indiana State Police, New York State Police, Florida Department of Law Enforcement, and Canada's Office of the Chief Coroner, among others, with criminal cases across the county and throughout the world.

I am also honored to represent Gregg A. VanDusseldorp Sr., who was awarded the Gerald I. Lamkin Fellow for Innovation and Service. Gregg is the President of Omnitech Systems, Incorporated in Valparaiso, Indiana. Gregg founded this medical device company that has developed products to assist with surgeries associated with urology and gynecology. He currently holds eight patents for products that are used by surgeons worldwide.

Finally, the recipients of the Chanute Prize for Team Innovation should be commended for their contributions. The Center for Innovation through Visualization and Simulation of Purdue University Calumet has been able to save more than \$30 million dollars for local business, industry, and communities by implementing its modeling, visualization and simulation technologies, researchers. Additionally, "S-in motion" is a revolutionary concept of designing lighter and safer automobiles utilizing new steel products that was created with the assistance of ArcelorMittal Global R&D Center in East Chicago. This innovative program works to create steel for automobiles that reduces the weight of vehicles in order to meet higher fuel standards and to guarantee the use of steel in automobiles in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my distinguished colleagues to join me in commending these outstanding innovators. The contributions they have made to society, here in Northwest Indiana and worldwide, are immeasurable and lifelong. For their truly brilliant innovative ideas, projects, and leadership, each recipient is worthy of the highest commendation.

CONGRATULATING MS. DEBORAH WASYLIK, RECIPIENT OF THE 2012 RICHARD C. BARTLETT ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD

HON. DANIEL WEBSTER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. WEBSTER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Ms. Deborah Wasylik of Orlando, Florida on being named the recipient of the 2012 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award. This annual award is presented to an outstanding middle or high school teacher who integrates environmental studies in their curriculum and engages students in interdisciplinary solutions to environmental challenges.

Ms. Wasylik teaches Advanced Placement Environmental Science and Marine Science to juniors and seniors at Dr. Phillips High School. In spite of not having a science budget and having to construct curriculum on her own, not only have her students on average scored over thirty points above the national average on their Advanced Placement exams, but they also hold the highest Advanced Placement passing rate in Orange County Public Schools. Ms. Wasylik succeeds in engaging her students, as well as her fellow colleagues, in environmental studies by integrating environmental education across subject areas beyond science, including history, language arts and mathematics. Her reinforcement of student learning facilitates students making real world and local connections associated with environmental issues.

In addition to their academic successes, her students have excelled significantly in achievements beyond the traditional classroom. Her students started a recycling program for Dr. Phillips High School's campus and created an outreach program to educate other school groups on aquaponics. With Ms. Wasylik's help, her students have been able to give back to their community in various ways in-

cluding cleaning up beaches, removing invasive plants, and giving tours of the ecosystem section at the Orlando Science Center.

Her spirit of dedication and commitment to her students is an example of the life-changing impact a dedicated educator can have on a community and on the individual lives of students. She is a shining example of the fruits of selflessness demonstrated by educators who devote themselves to Florida's future by investing in Florida's students.

On behalf of the citizens of Central Florida, I am pleased to recognize and applaud Ms. Deborah Wasylik for her hard work, dedication, and leadership. She is most deserving of the 2012 Richard C. Bartlett Environmental Education Award. May her investment in our nation's students, environment and educational institutions inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$16,370,056,245,929.64. We've added \$5,743,179,197,016.56 to our debt in nearly 4 years. This is \$5 trillion in debt our nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

COMMEMORATING THE CITY OF SOUTHFIELD

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2012

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the City of Southfield, and thank the residents of Southfield who have provided me with the honor of representing them in Congress for 30 years. My beloved late wife, Vicki and I, called Southfield our home when I was first elected to Congress, and our Congressional office was based there for many years. I have been proud to see the fabric of this community diversify racially and to watch it develop economically.

Historically, when Governor Cass first ordered the area in the "south fields" of Bloomfield Township surveyed in 1817, he could not have guessed at the fine city it would become. Though it became a township in 1830, it wasn't until 1958, over 100 years later, that Southfield would formally incorporate into a city.

Southfield has earned its moniker, "The Center of It All." Strong neighborhoods. Good schools. Manufacturing. Office high-rises which house more than 100 Fortune 500 companies. And, a deep sense of community and friendship.

I have enjoyed participating in so many activities and events like the annual Dr. Martin